

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

(ISO) W

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R 041002Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 556

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 017

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0495

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJ: POLITICAL MANEUVERS INTENSIFY

1. POLITICAL SCENE HAS ENTERED ANOTHER VERY FLUID PERIOD. INTENSE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND INTRICATE MANEUVERING AND CONNIVING ARE CREATING SITUATION WHICH, AS OF MAY 30, COULD MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION. AMONG MORE INTERESTING RUMORS AND SPECULATIONS ARE FOLLOWING (A) SOMARE WILL RESIGN AND LET SOMEONE ELSE FORM CABINET WITHOUT ELECTION; (B) SOMARE WILL RESIGN, DISSOLVE HOUSE AND GO TO POLLS ON INDEPENDENCE ISSUE; (C) SOMARE WILL RESIGN, GET OUT OF POLITICS, GO BACK TO WEWAK AND SIT UNDER COCONUT TREE; (D) SOMARE WILL RESIGN AS CHIEF MINISTER BUT THEN LET HIMSELF BE COAXED BACK INTO SAME OFFICE, AFTER EXTRACTING COMMITMENTS FROM OPPOSITION; (E) NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP-COUNTRY PARTY COALITION WILL FORCE VOTE AND BRING DOWN SOMARE GOVERNMENT, GO TO POLLS, COME BACK TO FORM GOVERNMENT WITH SINAKE GIRIGIRI AS CHIEF MINISTER IN NAME ONLY AND WITH POWER IN HANDS OF MOMIS AND KAPUTIN.

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2. SOMARE IS OBVIOUSLY LETTING PEOPLE SAY HE IS ABOUT

TO RESIGN. SEEMS UNLIKELY HE WILL VOLUNTARILY GO TO
POLLS AS PANGU IS IN SUCH BAD SHAPE IT WOULD LOSE
HEAVILY. IN FACT, THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD RELUCTANCE
IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO GO TO POLLS AS 50 OR 60 MEMBERS
COULD EASILY LOSE THEIR SEATS, AND THEY KNOW IT.

3. ANOTHER FACTOR IN SOMARE'S OWN DECISION IS FAMILY
PROBLEMS. POLITICS HAVE ABSORBED MOST OF HIS TIME IN
RECENT MONTHS WITH RESULTANT NEGLECT OF FAMILY. HIS
TEENAGE SONS HAVE REPORTEDLY GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE, AND
HE IS SAID TO FEEL HIS POLITICAL CAREER IS RESPONSIBLE.

4. GIRIGIRI AS CHIEF MINISTER SEEM WIDELY IMPROBABLE
GIVEN HIS ACUTE DRIVING PROBLEM AND LACK OF SOPHISTICATION.
RELATIONS BETWEEN KAPUTIN AND SOMARE HAVE REACHED NEW
LOW, HOWEVER, AND KAPUTIN MIGHT BE WILLING TO TRY THIS
MANEUVER TO SETTLE SCORES WITH SOMARE.

5. ANOTHER LINE OF REASONING HEARD REPEATEDLY SUGGESTS
SOMARE WILL NOT RESIGN, WILL GIVE HOUSE MORE TIME TO
CONSIDER CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIC LAWS, IF NECESSARY
WAIT UNTIL JULY OR AUGUST TO SET DATE OF INDEPENDENCE,
HAVE SEPTEMBER INDEPENDENCE DAY BUT WITHOUT BIG
CELEBRATIONS WHICH WOULD COME LATER. I BELIEVE SOMARE
WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO FOREGO BIG CELEBRATION ON I-DAY,
BUT THIS COULD BE THE BEST OF MANY UNPALATABLE CHOICES.
KIKI'S COMMITMENT TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THAT PNG WOULD
BE INDEPENDENT BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER WEIGHS HEAVILY
ON SOMARE (AND ON KIKI AND DFRT), ALTHOUGH IT IS RARELY
MENTIONED IN PUBLIC DEBATE.
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